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LATE NEWS

The Government of India has extended (about June 5) the validity of outstanding licenses for importation of United States cotton from June 30 to December 31, 1953. Practically all outstanding licenses were originally issued for imports of cotton during the year ended August 31, 1952. This is the second extension of expiration dates for these licenses.

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The 1953-54 jute acreage in India, now estimated at 1.37 million acres, is 25 percent lower than in 1952-53. The reduction is attributed to lower jute prices this year, drought at planting time in some areas, and some shift to rice, prices of which are higher this year.

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An outline of the Egyptian Government's 1953-54 cotton policy contains the 6 principal points listed below:

1. The Alexandria Futures Exchange will remain closed.
2. The Government will continue to buy cotton from producers and sell to exporters and local mills.
3. Export sales prices will be based on New York futures quotations and will include the export tax.
4. Government sales prices to exporters and local mills will be the export sales price minus the tax, and plus or minus prime differentials.
5. Government purchase prices will be set before the start of the season and will be some 14 percent lower than in 1952-53 to reflect lower land rentals under the new government's Agrarian Law.
6. If government cotton transactions show a profit (exclusive of the export tax), three-quarters of such profit will be refunded to the producers.

Details of this program are being included in a Foreign Agriculture Circular soon to be published by the Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C.

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FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

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WORLD HORSE NUMBERS DECLINE 1/

World horse numbers at the beginning of 1953 were estimated by the Foreign Agricultural Service at about 75 million head. This is a decline of nearly 1 million head from 1952 numbers and 1.2 million from the postwar peak of 76.4 million in 1950 and 1951. Numbers are now about 22 percent below the 1934-38 prewar average.

The world pattern of changes in horse numbers reflect moderate recovery from war devastation immediately after World War II, followed by declining numbers as mechanization progressed in the more agriculturally developed countries in 1947 and 1948 and then by more increases from 1949-51 as other areas of the world stepped up agricultural output but, because of lack of tractors, had to depend on horse power. More extensive mechanization in the more advanced farming areas of the world caused a further decline in 1952 and 1953 in spite of the continued upward trend in horse numbers in the U.S.S.R., Asia and parts of Africa.

Major decreases in horse numbers since prewar have taken place in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Argentina, Australia and New Zealand. This group of countries which had made considerable progress in replacing horses with tractors prior to World War II, have for the most part a type of agriculture which can benefit through mechanization, and, also, have had machinery available either through manufacture or through purchase from other countries.

Smaller decreases have occurred in Cuba, most Western European countries, Greece, Japan, the Union of South Africa, and some areas of Asia. Various factors such as small farms not readily adaptable to tractor power, lack of foreign exchange or inability to manufacture equipment and the general state of agricultural development are chiefly responsible for the smaller use of machines rather than horsepower.

Horse numbers in 1953 are above other postwar years and the prewar average in Mexico, Italy, Spain, Iran, Iraq, Turkey, Brazil, Colombia, Peru, and other small areas in Asia and North Africa. These countries as a group have increased agricultural output over the last 2 decades, calling for more horse power.

There are indications that horse numbers in the U.S.S.R. and several other countries of Eastern Europe have made a fairly substantial recovery in the last few years. They are all, however, considerably below prewar levels.

In general, world horse numbers are likely to remain about the same in the years immediately ahead. The trend since the end of World War II, which saw decreases in the more highly developed agricultural countries and increases in those countries which are coming into a higher level of cultivation, will probably continue so that the net change is not likely to be great.

1/ A more extensive statement soon will be published as a Foreign Agriculture Circular by the Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C.

HORSES: Number in specified countries, averages 1934-38 and 1946-50, annual 1950-1953

Continent and country	Month of 1/ estimate	Average 1934-38	Average 1946-50	1950	1951	1952 2/	1953 2/
		Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
NORTH AMERICA							
Canada	June 1	2,864	1,923	1,683	1,304	1,180	1,050
Mexico	June	3/ 2,199	-	2,900	-	2,800	-
United States	Jan. 1	11,570	6,754	5,548	4,993	4,330	3,870
Cuba	Dec. 31 1/	582	4/ 408	-	-	412	-
Estimated total		18,600	13,000	11,900	11,000	10,100	9,500
EUROPE							
Austria	Dec. 3 1/	4/ 5/ 261	277	282	283	276	267
Belgium	Jan. 1	1/ 245	282	257	247	234	227
Denmark	July 15	553	572	502	465	423	-
Finland	Mar. 1	6/ 372	390	400	-	-	-
France	Fall 1/	2,808	2,370	2,414	2,397	2,380	2,333
Germany, Western	Dec. 1 1/	7/ 1,542	1,596	1,629	1,570	1,455	1,360
Greece	Dec. 31 1/	356	233	232	251	292	297
Iceland	Spring	46	49	42	42	41	-
Ireland	June	429	421	391	367	342	-
Italy	Jan. 1	4/ 5/ 801	7/ 760	798	-	-	805
Luxembourg	Dec. 1 1/	4/ 17	16	15	14	14	-
Netherlands	May	293	327	275	270	260	-
Norway	June 20	186	212	191	184	175	172
Portugal	Dec. 31 1/	4/ 90	-	-	75	75	70
Spain	Dec. 31 1/	4/ 563	585	-	-	-	-
Sweden	Summer	615	509	440	415	386	-
Switzerland	April	4/ 140	143	134	131	131	-
United Kingdom	June	1,107	696	549	478	414	-
Yugoslavia	Jan. 1	1/ 1,212	7/ 950	1,097	1,095	1,096	-
Total above		11,600	10,500	10,300	10,100	9,800	9,500
Other Europe		7,600	5,500	6,100	6,200	6,300	6,300
Estimated total		19,200	16,000	16,400	16,300	16,100	15,800
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia)	Jan. 1	4/ 19,900	-	-	13,700	14,700	-
ASIA							
Iran	Mar. 21	7/ 328	7/ 350	365	366	360	365
Iraq		4/ 150	7/ 189	184	8/ 400	420	-
Syria	Dec. 31 1/	58	112	98	100	101	105
Turkey	Dec. 31 1/	7/ 915	1,076	1,132	1,140	1,173	1,216
Burma	Dec. 31 1/	57	7/ 11	-	-	-	-
China proper (22 provinces)	May	7/ 3,772	7/ 2,140	-	-	-	-
Manchuria	Dec. 31 1/	7/ 1,948	-	-	-	-	-

ASIA (Continued)							
Outer Mongolia		4/ 1,550	-	-	-	-	-
India	Dec. 31 1/	4/ 1,850	-	-	1,556	1,520	-
Indochina		7/ 105	-	1/ 26	-	-	-
Indonesia	Jan. 1	1/ 652	-	596	-	503	503
Japan	Feb. 1	1/ 1,330	1,067	1,071	1,062	1,112	-
Pakistan	Dec. 31 1/	4/ 535	4/ 470	-	-	470	-
Philippine Islands	Jan. 1	4/ 340	181	206	207	214	245
Thailand	Mar. 31	364	-	-	-	62	64
Estimated total		15,800	12,500	12,700	12,700	12,800	12,900
SOUTH AMERICA							
Argentina	July 1	4/ 8,290	4/ 7,238	-	-	-	-
Brazil		7/ 6,149	4/ 6,746	-	1/ 6,937	-	-
Chile	June	7/ 489	7/ 462	460	-	-	-
Colombia	Dec. 31 1/	7/ 941	7/ 1,156	1,236	1,298	-	-
Paraguay	Dec. 31 1/	7/ 229	345	294	316	250	-
Peru		4/ 400	7/ 507	518	550	-	-
Uruguay	April	4/ 644	4/ 550	-	667	-	1/ 645
Estimated total		17,700	17,600	17,600	17,600	17,400	17,400
AFRICA							
Algeria		176	201	209	215	-	-
French Morocco 9/	Dec. 31 1/	216	170	165	179	190	-
Nigeria and Cameroons		179	-	-	212	-	-
Tunisia	Dec. 31 1/	108	80	66	70	-	-
Union of South Africa	August	4/ 778	4/ 712	-	-	-	-
Estimated total		3,100	3,900	3,800	3,900	3,900	3,900
OCEANIA							
Australia	Mar. 31	1/ 1,761	1,159	1,057	999	937	-
New Zealand	Jan. 31	274	204	195	184	174	-
Estimated total		2,100	1,400	1,300	1,200	1,100	1,100
Estimated world total		96,400	75,700	76,400	76,400	76,100	75,200

1/ End of year estimates (October to December) included under following year for comparisons and totals. Thus for Austria the December 3, 1949 estimate of 282,000 head is shown under 1950. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Average of 1930 and 1940 censuses. 4/ Census or estimate for single year. 5/ March. 6/ September. 7/ Average for 2 to 4 years only. 8/ A new series of estimates was inaugurated by the Directorate of Veterinary Service in 1951. 9/ Data include only number taxed.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of the United States Foreign Service officers, and other information. Totals include estimates for countries for which official statistics are unavailable - June, 1953.

Other Work Stock

In addition to horses, other work stock, notably mules and asses, oxen, work cows and water buffaloes, provide farm power for a great part of the world, especially in Central and Southern Europe, the Mediterranean area and Asia. Although statistical data are incomplete and scattered, there are indications that oxen and work cow numbers declined somewhat in Europe following the second World War. On the other hand, mules and asses are reported to have increased in Greece, Italy, India, Turkey, Syria and Brazil.

Because of the economic importance of work cows, oxen and water buffaloes as a source of milk and meat, as well as draft power, and their ability, like that of all other work stock, to utilize cheap roughages, they have an assured position in the economy of many small farms. However, some progress has been made in the application of tractor power to small farms, and as further progress is made the importance of work cows in some areas may be expected to decline further.

As a result of increased mechanization in the United States and Canada, mules continued to decline during 1952. In the Near and Far East, water buffaloes have increased in some countries.

During the coming year, mechanization may be expected to continue to contribute materially to the total world farm power. In some European and many Asian countries, however, the lack of working capital together with other economic factors will continue to limit extensive mechanization.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world live-stocks numbers approved by the Foreign Agricultural Service Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. It is based in part upon U.S. Foreign Service reports.

WORLD WOOL PRODUCTION IN 1953 1/

World wool production in 1953 is estimated at 4,330 million pounds, grease basis, an increase of 40 million pounds over the substantially revised 1952 production, according to the semi-annual wool report of the Foreign Agricultural Service.

The previous record clip was set in 1942 when because of wartime demands 4,200 million pounds were produced. Output declined steadily after that year as wool production became relatively less profitable and reached a low of 3,710 million pounds in 1947 after severe drought in Australia. These estimates include both apparel and carpet types and the clean yield of the 1953 forecast production should approach 2,500 million pounds.

Weather and feed conditions in the major wool producing countries as well as most of the smaller countries have been relatively favorable over the past 12 to 15 months. Prices on world markets for wool and meat have also been favorable since early 1952. Sheep numbers are estimated to be up about 1 percent over 1952 but increased yield per fleece, particularly in Australia, accounts for the major part of the increase.

1/ A more extensive statement soon will be published as a Foreign Agriculture Circular by the Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C.

Notwithstanding the upward revision in the estimate of wool production for 1952 (revised to 4,290 million pounds from 4,170 estimated last November) and the availability of carry-over wool in South America, the 1952 clip sold well and at prices generally appreciating throughout the year. Additions during the selling season to the stockpile in the United Kingdom and the movement of wool to the Commodity Credit Corporation in the United States lent strength to the market.

Production in the United States is estimated at 260 million pounds, a decrease of 6 million pounds from 1952 outturn which was up only slightly over the low level of 1949 through 1951. Sheep numbers were down about 1 percent on January 1, 1953. Canadian output made a small recovery in 1953, reversing the long downward trend in sheep numbers and wool production in that country.

Wool production in Western Europe made another small increase, continuing the postwar trend. Total output at 396 million pounds in 1953 is about 5 percent above the prewar average. Some gains over 1952 were made in the United Kingdom, Spain and Greece.

On the basis of indicated sheep numbers in the U.S.S.R. a larger wool production figure has been included in the total and the series revised. This revision accounts for about 30 million pounds for each year 1949 through 1953.

Total output of coarse wools in the Near East, India and Pakistan is estimated to have remained at about the same level, reflecting the somewhat uncertain market for carpet type wools over the past 2 years. A similar situation appears to exist in North Africa.

In the major wool exporting countries of Australia, New Zealand, Union of South Africa, Argentina and Uruguay substantial gains were made in 1952 and further increases are indicated for 1953.

Average fleece weight during the season ending June 30, in Australia was apparently about 4 percent higher than in any other recent year and about 12 percent higher than in 1951-52 largely as a result of better feed conditions. Early shearings and condition of flocks indicate that this tendency will likely continue to some extent into the coming season for which shearing will commence in volume in the next 60 days. Sheep numbers are also up about 2 percent over a year ago. Slaughter is up, indicating larger output of wool on skins.

Production in New Zealand continued its steady increase into 1952 and another increase to 415 million pounds, a new record, is forecast for 1953-54, based on increased sheep numbers. There has also been a steady increase in wool output in the Union of South Africa and there should be further gain in 1953, weather and feed conditions permitting.

In Uruguay the improved marketing situation of the past year and the current outlook has encouraged a small increase in sheep numbers over a year ago which appears to warrant a larger forecast for 1953 wool output. Although the shift to cattle in Argentina has brought about a slight decrease in sheep numbers the good condition of flocks and adequate feed supplies together with the more promising market outlook accounts for the expected increase.

WOOL: Production in specified countries, greasy basis, averages 1936-40 and 1946-50; annual 1949 to 1953 1/

Continent and country	Averages 1936-40	Averages 1946-50	1949	1950	1951	1952 2/	1953 2/
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
NORTH AMERICA							
Canada	15.6	12.4	9.8	9.5	6.9	7.7	8.0
Mexico	10.3	11.4	11.5	13.2	13.7	13.2	12.8
United States							
Shorn	360.6	238.5	212.9	215.4	225.5	232.4	-
Pulled	64.7	46.5	35.6	32.4	25.9	33.6	-
Total	425.3	285.0	248.5	247.8	251.4	266.0	260.0
Estimated total 3/	451.7	309.4	270.5	271.2	272.5	287.5	281.4
EUROPE							
Austria	2.1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Finland	2.7	3.2	3.7	4.0	4.4	4.5	4.5
France	37.1	30.6	33.9	35.0	40.0	41.9	41.9
Germany, Western	21.7	17.3	19.2	15.3	14.4	13.7	13.0
Greece	19.3	17.4	17.1	16.5	17.0	19.2	21.2
Ireland	17.2	13.1	12.0	13.7	14.0	14.8	14.8
Italy	30.4	30.2	35.3	35.0	35.5	35.0	34.0
Netherlands	6.1	5.4	6.2	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5
Norway	5.9	6.4	6.8	7.3	7.7	7.8	7.9
Portugal	16.3	18.4	17.0	21.2	22.0	22.0	22.5
Spain	70.0	83.2	82.0	90.0	90.0	93.0	94.0
United Kingdom	110.1	81.2	88.0	89.0	92.7	95.1	97.0
Yugoslavia	34.7	30.0	33.6	34.3	32.0	32.0	32.0
Total Western Europe	378.8	343.6	362.0	374.9	383.4	392.6	396.2
Other Europe 4/	104.5	82.2	86.3	89.9	92.2	92.3	92.3
Estimated total (excl. U.S.S.R.) 5/6/	483.3	425.8	448.3	464.8	475.6	484.9	488.5
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia) 5/	310.2	311.5	-	-	-	-	-

ASIA							
Iran	36.3	29.3	24.7	32.6	34.2	36.6	37.5
Iraq	21.6	27.3	26.7	28.7	30.0	32.0	32.0
Lebanon	-	-	-	-	2.4	2.5	2.5
Syria	10.7	12.2	10.0	13.0	15.0	16.0	13.0
Turkey	67.7	70.7	70.9	67.2	72.9	77.9	80.0
Afghanistan	15.0	16.4	-	-	-	-	-
China 7/	88.0	75.0	-	-	-	-	-
India 8/	72.9	51.8	46.2	50.5	52.0	58.0	56.5
Japan	-	-	2.2	2.6	3.2	4.5	5.0
Pakistan	-	26.4	27.0	27.8	27.2	28.0	30.0
Estimated total 9/	344.2	355.6	346.4	362.3	374.8	393.5	394.5
SOUTH AMERICA							
Argentina	411.0	449.8	415.0	430.0	420.0	420.0	430.0
Brazil	35.5	45.8	48.5	47.4	51.8	51.8	52.0
Chile	32.6	42.3	46.3	41.9	41.9	44.1	45.0
Falkland Islands	4.0	4.2	4.3	4.4	4.2	5.0	5.0
Peru	19.4	17.7	18.7	19.2	20.5	20.5	20.5
Uruguay	126.2	162.9	163.3	185.0	187.4	190.0	195.0
Estimated total 10/	638.9	735.4	707.7	739.5	737.4	743.3	759.4
AFRICA							
Algeria	22.6	16.2	15.6	19.6	22.8	28.0	29.0
Egypt	7.5	6.7	6.4	8.0	6.6	7.0	8.0
French Morocco	35.1	27.2	30.0	33.1	35.3	30.0	30.0
Tunisia	12.0	9.9	8.0	11.0	12.0	13.0	13.0
Union of South Africa 11/	252.3	215.9	217.5	227.5	240.0	245.0	250.0
Estimated total 12/	336.8	281.9	283.0	304.6	323.5	329.8	336.8
OCEANIA							
Australia	1,051.9	1,050.0	1,110.0	1,092.0	1,052.4	1,240.0	1,250.0
New Zealand	313.8	371.6	390.0	390.0	406.7	413.4	418.0
Total	1,365.9	1,421.7	1,500.1	1,482.1	1,459.2	1,653.5	1,668.1
Estimated world total 13/	3,930.0	3,840.0	3,890.0	3,970.0	4,020.0	4,290.0	4,330.0

1/ For summary purposes wool produced mostly in the spring in the Northern Hemisphere is combined with that produced in the season beginning July 1 or October 1 of the same year in the Southern Hemisphere. Pulled wool is included for most countries at its greasy equivalent. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Includes estimates for Newfoundland, Netherland West Indies, Guatemala and El Salvador. 4/ Includes the Iron Curtain Countries, (Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Rumania and Eastern Germany). 5/ Based on present boundaries. 6/ Includes estimates for countries producing 2 million pounds or less, namely Belgium, Denmark, Iceland, Sweden and Switzerland. 7/ Includes China Proper (22 provinces) Manchuria, Jehol and Sinkiang (Turkestan). 8/ Includes Pakistan. 9/ Includes estimates for Afghanistan, Cyprus, Palestine, Transjordan, Outer Mongolia, Tibet, Nepal and China. 10/ Includes relatively small production in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, and Venezuela. 11/ Union of South Africa, Union Protectorate and South West Africa. 12/ Includes estimates for Kenya, French West Africa and Togo. 13/ Rounded to tens of millions.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of U.S. Foreign Service officers, results of office research and other information. Estimates for countries having changed boundaries have been adjusted to present boundaries except as noted. June, 1953.

The increased output as noted above, plus some carry-over in Argentina and Government stocks in the United States and the United Kingdom, provides adequate supplies for a high level of wool consumption which would seem to preclude any large price increase over the next 15 months. On the other hand, expected consumption as judged from the rate in the first quarter of 1953 should lend strength to world wool prices.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural production approved by the Foreign Agricultural Service Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. It is based in part upon U.S. Foreign Service reports.

SOUTH AFRICA INCREASING
OILSEED OUTPUT

Production of principal oilseed crops in the Union of South Africa in 1953 is expected to total about 240,000 short tons, substantially above the estimated 192,300 tons produced last year, reports Roy O. Westley, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Pretoria. Production of shelled peanuts this year may amount to 150,000 tons, 100,000 tons of which would be used for oil extraction. About 30,000 tons are sold as edible nuts and upwards of 20,000 are required for seed. It is expected that sunflower seed may not exceed 50,000 tons, that cottonseed will be about 10,000 tons, and that castor bean tonnage may be as great as 30,000 tons. (See Foreign Crops and Markets of May 18, 1953, for fish oil production in South Africa.)

Peanuts are the outstanding oilseed crop of South Africa. Sunflower acreage is likely to vary from year to year depending on the weather. Sunflowers are valuable as a catch crop when corn has failed early in the season. There is a considerable interest in cotton production in certain areas but acreage is not likely to increase materially during the next few years.

Castor bean cultivation has expanded rapidly and the estimated area planted to this crop in 1953 is placed at 400,000 acres. The yield, however, has been low and it is doubtful if average production will exceed 250 pounds per acre. There are 2 castor oil crushing factories in South Africa, one at Capetown and the other, a new cooperative at Randfontein. One area is concentrating on the spineless variety and the oil content is considered to be very satisfactory.

Principal exports of fats and oils from South Africa in 1952 were as follows: corn and sunflower oil--3,883 tons; castor oil--15; peanut oil--9,268; linseed oil--30; animal fats--235; and marine oils--12,710 tons. Imports in 1952 included 1,587 tons of oilseeds for crushing, 18,396 tons of vegetable oils, 20,864 tons of animal fats, and 10,675 tons of fish oils. Nearly all of the animal fats came from the United States.

ANTARCTIC WHALE OIL
SALES NEAR COMPLETION

Some 81,200 short tons of Antarctic baleen whale oil, including a small carryover of the 1952 output, remained unsold as of mid-May 1953, reports William Kling, Assistant Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, London. Of this quantity, Panama held 44,800 tons, Argentina 7,280 tons, and Japan 29,120 tons. However, the bulk of the Japanese holdings probably have been disposed of; negotiations for the sale of 23,500 tons were in process at the time this report was written.

Unsold quantities were being offered at £78 to £80 per long ton ($195-$200 per short ton) but buyers were scarce and willing to pay only £70 to £72 ($175-$180). The following table shows the approximate disposition of Antarctic whale oil, mainly 1953 production, as of May 14, 1953:

Producing country	Buyer	Short tons	U.S. dollars per short ton
United Kingdom	Br. Ministry of Food	81,000	190.00
South Africa	Br. Ministry of Food	25,760	190.00
Norway	Br. Ministry of Food	28,000	170.00
Norway	Germany	23,800	175.00 - 180.00
Norway	Sweden	5,600	175.00
Norway	France	9,520	175.00 - 180.00
Norway	Denmark	11,200	175.00
Norway	Belgium	4,200	175.00 - 181.25
Norway	Netherlands	15,680	175.00 - 181.25
Norway	Norwegian Hardeners	25,760	175.00
Norway	Norwegian Dealers	22,400	193.75
Norway	Norwegian Dealers	2,800	206.25
Netherlands	Netherlands Government	18,800	193.75
Russia	Domestic	27,800	N.A.
Argentina	Argentine Dealers	2,240	177.50
Argentina	Argentine Dealers	4,480	207.50
Japan	Germany	12,656	186.25
Japan	Germany	11,334	186.25

The British Ministry of Food purchased the entire British and South African production before the 1953 season started at £76 per long ton ($190 per short ton) compared with £90 to £110 ($225-$275) paid last season. Whale oil prices are related to the general fats and oils market which has been weak, at least compared with last year. The range of whale oil prices this year, from L68 to L83 ($170-$207.50), is somewhat less than last year and is disappointing to whaling companies in view of higher operating costs.

WORLD EXPORTS OF PALM OIL AND PALM KERNELS UP IN 1952 1/

Palm oil and palm kernel exports during 1952 from the major producing areas of the world increased substantially from 1951 and from the prewar and postwar averages, according to the Foreign Agricultural Service. Shipments, however, failed to reach the record volume traded in 1950.

Table 1 - PALM OIL: Exports from principal producing countries, averages 1935-39 and 1945-49, annual 1950-1952

(Short tons)

Country	Average 1935-39	Average 1945-49	1950	1951	1952 1/
Africa:					
British					
Nigeria	153,980	145,686	193,770	167,722	187,363
Sierra Leone	1,943	1,406	2,173	3,000	3,000
Gold Coast	549	229	286	-	-
French					
West Africa	22,691	5,408	12,345	16,004	10,463
Equatorial Africa	6,304	2,524	3,168	2,873	2,500
Cameroons	9,759	3,350	5,225	3,452	1,000
Togo	1,841	592	880	408	300
Portuguese					
Angola	3,254	12,111	15,225	12,556	15,000
Guinea	845	1,113	1,159	1,153	-
Sao Tome and Principe	1,640	2,172	3,136	1,941	2,500
Belgian Congo	72,450	106,506	145,547	145,522	150,000
Liberia	1,160	1,446	3,614	4,624	3,360
Total Africa	276,416	282,543	386,528	359,255	375,486
Malaya, Federation of	47,360	35,327	57,350	52,133	51,689
Indonesia	212,685	31,600	126,903	107,608	132,490
Total	536,461	349,470	570,781	518,996	559,665

1/ Preliminary estimate.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of U.S. Foreign Service officers, results of office research, or other information.

1/ The palm oil and palm kernel situation is reviewed here in terms of exports, rather than production, because of more complete data regarding exports. A more extensive statement soon will be published as a Foreign Agriculture Circular available from Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C.

Palm oil exports are estimated at almost 560,000 short tons, an increase of 40,000 tons or 8 percent from 1951 and 23,000 tons or 4 percent from prewar. Last year's tonnage was, however, 11,000 tons less than the high of 1950. The African Continent supplied 67 percent of the total palm oil exports, Indonesia 24 percent, and the Federation of Malaya 9 percent.

The increase from 1951 is explained largely by the sharp expansion in exports from Nigeria, the world's leading exporter of palm oil since prewar years, and from Indonesia, which ranks third in importance. Relatively smaller increases occurred in the Belgian Congo, the second ranking source, Angola, and the Islands of Sao Tome and Principe. Congo exports probably were a record high though official figures are not yet available.

From most of the remaining palm producing countries, exports declined in 1952. Major decreases occurred in the French areas of West Africa, Equatorial Africa and the Cameroons, and in Liberia and Malaya.

Table 2 - PALM KERNELS: Exports from principal producing countries, averages 1935-39 and 1945-49, annual 1950-1952

(Short tons)

Country	Average 1935-39	Average 1945-49	1950	1951	1952 1/
Africa:					
British					
Nigeria	369,292	356,007	465,815	388,655	419,063
Sierre Leone	83,775	66,825	79,821	82,000	90,000
Gold Coast	7,987	6,206	4,621	2,646	7,275
Gambia	776	1,292	1,580	-	-
French					
West Africa	85,254	59,617	93,096	82,951	70,720
Equatorial Africa	14,283	8,102	9,138	8,722	8,500
Cameroons	39,470	30,049	31,785	29,929	20,000
Togo	13,775	6,157	14,018	8,296	9,000
Portuguese					
Angola	6,399	12,904	12,656	10,859	14,881
Guinea	13,909	15,601	14,698	-	-
Sao Tome and Principe	4,371	5,815	7,980	6,401	6,000
Belgian Congo	94,002	67,000	94,546	96,466	103,014
Liberia	10,130	8,865	22,681	26,239	29,120
Total Africa	743,423	644,440	852,435	743,164	777,573
Malaya, Federation of	8,132	4,618	10,168	13,225	12,173
Indonesia	44,134	9,111	28,959	27,667	40,975
Total	795,689	658,169	891,562	784,056	830,721

1/ Preliminary estimate.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of U. S. Foreign Service officers, results of office research, or other information.

Postwar palm oil exports from French Africa have dropped sharply from the prewar tonnage. In Indonesia, recovery from war damage has been slow, and exports in 1952, though substantially higher than in 1951 were far short of the prewar years when Indonesia was the world's leading exporter. In contrast, marked expansion from prewar shipments has occurred in British Africa, Portuguese Africa, the Belgian Congo, Liberia and Malaya.

Almost 97 percent of Nigeria's palm oil exports in 1952 went to the United Kingdom and exports from the Belgian Congo probably went mainly to Belgium, the United Kingdom and the United States. (Country-breakdown not yet available.) Likewise, the bulk of the tonnage from French West Africa, Angola and Malaya went to the mother countries, France, Portugal and the United Kingdom. Indonesia's oil exports went largely to the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and Western Germany.

Palm kernel exports in 1952 are estimated at 830,700 tons which would be equivalent to about 373,800 tons of palm kernel oil at an extraction rate of 45 percent. This volume of kernels represents an increase of 46,000 tons or 6 percent from 1951 and 35,000 tons or 4 percent from prewar. However, kernel shipments were 60,000 tons less than the record tonnage of 1950. Africa accounted for 94 percent of the total, Indonesia 5 percent and Malaya one percent.

Exports increased from 1951 from most of the major producing areas with the exceptions of French Africa and Malaya. Shipments from Nigeria, the source of one-half the total quantity entering trade, increased 30,000 tons or 8 percent in 1952. Percentage-wise, however, the greatest expansion occurred in the Gold Coast and Indonesia. On the other hand, kernel exports from French West Africa declined 18 percent and from the Cameroons, an estimated 50 percent.

Compared with the prewar period the pattern of palm kernel exports resembles that of palm oil. Tonnage shipped from French Africa and Indonesia has continued in the postwar period to be less than the prewar average, while exports from British Africa, Portuguese Africa, the Belgian Congo, Liberia, and Malaya have shown a sizable expansion.

Most of the kernels are shipped to mother countries in Europe.

FINLAND EXPECTS LARGER RAPESEED, SMALLER FLAXSEED CROPS IN 1953

Finland's 1953 output of turnip-rapeseed and oil flaxseed is expected to amount to 23,700 and 1,000 short tons, respectively, against 19,300 and 1,160 tons last year, according to the American Legation, Helsinki. Output of oil from the 1953 crops is forecast at 8,800 tons of rapeseed oil and 300 tons of linseed oil.

The 1952 crop of turnip-rapeseed is the first crop processed domestically after completion of the farmer-owned pressing and extraction plant near Turku last fall. To provide employment after the processing of the 1952 crop is finished at the end of May, about 7,700 tons of Chinese soybeans have been purchased for June arrival under the first direct Finland-China Trade Agreement (now in process of negotiation). This shipment will replace, in part, Finland's 1952 imports of 1,984 tons of soybean oil and 19,731 tons of soybean meal.

It is estimated that about 1,980 tons of flaxseed from the 1951 crop and 1,100 tons of imported seed were pressed in 1952, as compared with 3,020 and 864 tons in 1951. In addition to the 880 tons of oil obtained, about 3,800 tons of imported linseed oil was consumed. This is a marked decline from the 1951 consumption estimate of 7,700 tons of linseed oil, mainly due to the fact that the backlog in building repair has now been overcome. Finland's imports of oils and oilseeds in 1952 included 192 tons of flaxseed, 4,543 tons of raw linseed oil, and 8,460 tons of coconut oil.

BEAN SHORTAGES IN CUBA AND MEXICO

The 1952-53 harvest of beans completed last February in Cuba was the smallest in many years. It was estimated at 354,000 bags, 23 percent less than the low 1951-52 harvest of 462,000 bags and 61 percent less than the 1945-49 average of 902,000 bags.

There will be a small harvest this coming July and August of some 50,000 to 75,000 bags. But the next main harvest will not be until December/February. Until then there will be short supplies of beans in Cuba unless imports are maintained at even higher than recent record levels.

In several recent years Cuba has used, for food, seed and other purposes, about 1.7 million bags annually. Of this an average of about 800,000 bags were imported and about 1 million bags locally produced. With the late Cuban harvest as low as 354,000 bags the need for imports in 1953 could be almost 1,300,000 bags.

Notwithstanding this apparent need for large imports the movement to Cuba from the United States has slowed sharply since December. This could be attributed to the immediate availability of the recent Cuban harvest. If so, it may be expected that when the short harvest is used a very strong demand for imports may develop. Much of the demand will be for black beans as the recent Cuban harvest was reported to be about 370,000 bags short of 1953 consumption requirements for black beans. This shortage has recently been eased by imports of 50,000 bags of black beans from Costa Rica. Much of the balance of the shortage would be in red beans.

Shortages of beans still prevails in parts of Mexico. A severe shortage of beans and corn has been reported recently in certain parts of the country. Local situations have been described as "critical." Small shipments arrive intermittently from other parts of Mexico, but they are of insufficient quantity and frequently gone shortly after being placed for sale. The Mexican demand for imports of beans could continue strong although retail prices are so high on imported beans that the lower-income Mexican people can hardly afford to buy them.--By Orval E. Goodsell, based in part upon U. S. Foreign Service reports.

JAPAN EXPECTS LARGE
GRAIN HARVEST

Another bumper grain crop is expected in Japan this year, on the basis of the April 1 official condition report and weather conditions to date. The area seeded to winter grains was slightly below that of a year ago, but growing conditions have been somewhat better than normal throughout the country. The official condition figures as of April 1 show wheat 106 percent, barley 108 percent, and naked barley 104 percent of normal. This is substantially above the corresponding figures for 1952, when a record grain crop was harvested. Unusually favorable late-season weather was an important factor in that record outturn.

Unofficial forecasts indicate that yields of each of the 3 major grains may exceed those of 1952, with barley possibly setting a record if conditions remain favorable. Government weather experts have predicted that the rainy season, which ordinarily begins about June 10 will be at least 10 days late this year. This would favor ripening and harvesting of grain. If current forecasts are achieved, this would be the third consecutive year of excellent winter grain harvests and would appear likely to affect the country's import requirements for food grains.

Japan's fiscal year begins April 1. The Government's plan for imports during the current fiscal year calls for only a slight reduction from the imports of 58.6 million bushels of wheat during fiscal year 1952. The planned barley imports, however, are less than half the total of 54 million bushels imported last year. Japan's quota under the proposed new international Wheat Agreement is 36.7 million bushels. This would be about 65 percent of the planned imports for the 1953 fiscal year and is double the quota under the existing agreement.

The Government's plan for imports calls for the bulk of the wheat to come from North America. A recently concluded trade agreement with Argentina, however, provides for the purchase of about 11 million bushels of wheat from Argentina, though there is some consideration being given to limiting the amount to about 7 million bushels. Officials hope to use a good part of this wheat in barter for rice, from surplus rice producing areas.

Imports of corn in fiscal 1953 are expected to be only slightly larger than the 2.8 million bushels imported in 1952. The period of entry of duty-free corn has been extended to the end of May and an additional extension is expected.

Wheat prices received by farmers on the free market after decontrol on June 1, 1952 show very little, change from the Government's purchase price, but barley and naked barley prices had risen 15 and 18 percent respectively by March 1953. Wheat was selling at the equivalent of $2.58 per bushel on the free market in March.

MEXICO HARVESTS GOOD WHEAT CROP, CORN PROSPECTS FAVORABLE

The wheat harvest now nearing completion in Mexico is tentatively estimated at about 18.5 million bushels, a million bushels above the 1952 crop, according to the American Embassy, Mexico, D.F. A crop that size would be above-average though not up to the high level of 1950 when an estimated 20.2 million bushels were harvested. In addition to the increased outturn, the wheat is above average quality. Another favorable factor in the present situation is that the current crop includes only about 20 percent as much soft white barrigon wheat as was produced last season. This formerly presented the millers with a serious problem when 25 percent of domestically-grown wheat was of too low quality to make good bread flour.

Imports of wheat for the first quarter of 1953 amounted to about 2.5 million bushels, all from the United States. In early May there still remained to be purchased about 3.7 million bushels of the country's quota of 12.9 million bushels for 1952-53, under the International Wheat Agreement. Though imports have been suspended temporarily to facilitate the movement and storage of the domestic crop, it is expected that Mexico will want to import as much of its quota as possible in order to get the advantage of the lower price offered under the present agreement. Mexico's quota under the proposed new agreement is increased to 15.2 million bushels.

Guaranteed prices for the 1953 domestic crop are the same as in 1952. Producer prices for hard red wheat are the equivalent of $2.61 per bushel, fine white wheat $2.52 per bushel, and barrigon $2.20 per bushel. To facilitate payments to growers the Government will pay 80 percent of the value of the grain as soon as it enters storage, on the basis of warehouse certificates. The remainder will be paid when the grain is shipped. Though millers may buy wheat either directly from growers or from the Governmental agency, the Government is encouraging them to purchase wheat from the growers. They may thus avoid payment of an additional interest fee added to domestic wheat bought from CEIMSA.

Imported wheat is still to be supplied to millers at the equivalent of $2.61 per bushel, the same price as is charged for domestic wheat of similar quality. The maintenance of the existing price for imported wheat has been announced despite the proposed increase from $1.80 per bushel to $2.05 per bushel under the proposed new Wheat Agreement.

The outlook for the important corn crop is good. The acreage is expected to be about the same as in 1952 but the harvest should be somewhat above that of a year ago since a much greater availability of hybrid seed and fertilizers are reported. Also increased irrigation is expected to follow better credit facilities and techincal supervision. The main crop was being planted under favorable conditions at latest report and in general, prospects for a good corn crop were better than average.

ITALY'S GRAIN OUTLOOK FAVORABLE

Prospects for Italy's 1953 grain harvest are unusually favorable, with outturns of small grains at least as large as the bumper crops of a year ago expected, according to the American Embassy, Rome. The wheat crop now appears likely to exceed the near-record 1952 harvest of about 295 million bushels. Barley is also expected to exceed the 1952 harvest, while no significant change is expected for oats or rye.

The present promising outlook is attributed to farily abundant rains over most areas, starting in mid-April and extending to mid-May. The abundant rains broke a prolonged dry spell on the continent and improved the crop outlook there considerably. Conditions in Sicily have been favorable throughout the season with rainfall plentiful. Some damage to wheat was suffered from a severe storm in the latter part of May in north and central Italy, especially around Turin. Though some damage is reported, it is now believed to be relatively slight since there was little or no hail.

The crop is said to be about 10 days late in development because of two short cold spells in April and May. Thoughtthe outturn now appears likely to be large barring unfavorable developments, the specific weight of the grain is expected to be below that of a year ago and the moisture content higher. The straw of the current crop will be short, which is of some importance to farmer's of central and southern areas, where straw is important as a fodder. This is especially true this season since the winter drought seriously reduced the first cutting of fodder. April and May rains have, however, been very beneficial to subsequent cuttings.

Though it is too early in the season to have a good indication of the outlook for corn, some increase in corn acreage is expected since moisture conditions are favorable and corn prices relatively high.

WEST GERMAN COTTON CONSUMPTION RISES

Consumption of cotton in Western Germany reached 97,000 bales (of 500 pounds gross) in March 1953, the highest monthly total since October 1952 according to a current report from Philip F. Dur, American Consul, Bremen. The total of 700,000 bales consumed during August-March 1952-53 represents a slight increase over the 687,000 bales consumed during a corresponding period a year ago.

Imports during the 1952-53 period mentioned above totaled about 688,000 bales. Stocks on hand March 1, 1953, were reported at 186,000 bales.

Prices of some foreign growths of cotton on May 27, c.i.f. Bremen, were reported as follows:

	Marks per kilo	Cents a pound
Turkish, Acala, Izmir I.......	3.82	41.26
Turkish, Acala, Adana I.......	3.38	36.50
Pakistani, Bengal Sind, Superfine..................	2.82	30.46
Pakistani, American Type, Superfine..................	3.27	35.32
Mexican, Matamoros, Strict Middling 1-1/16"...........	3.49	37.69

MEXICAN COTTON GROWERS HOLD
SIXTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

The sixth annual convention of the Union of Cotton Producers of Mexico (Union de Productores de Algodon de la Republica Mexicana) took place in Mexico City from May 25 to 27, 1953. More than 200 delegates from all the important cotton-producing regions of the country were present, the strongest representation being that of the Laguna Region of the States of Coahuila and Durango. The delegates included both private farmers and ejidatarios.1/

Throughout the 3 days of discussions, the problem which received the greatest attention was that of export markets for Mexican cotton. The delegates repeatedly expressed their concern over the prospects for marketing the exportable surplus of over 800,000 bales expected from the current crop. Among the resolutions adopted looking toward a solution of this problem were the following:

1. To request the Mexican Government to abolish in its entirety the 15-percent export surtax on cotton which is currently equivalent to about 4.3 U.S. cents a pound.

2. That a search be made by the proper official agencies for export markets for cotton, either in exchange for currency or through barter arrangements.

3. That the Mexican Government request the Government of the United States to increase the import quota for Mexican cotton in that market to 500,000 bales,2/ in reciprocity for the large quantities of manufactured products from the United States imported by Mexico.

1/ Members of communities having received grants of land from the Government under the agrarian program.

2/ Present quota is 18,500 bales with staple length of less than 1-1/8 inch. The quota of 95,000 bales for cotton of 1-1/8 to 1-11/16 inches is global (not divided by countries of origin) and nearly all of it normally is obtained from Egypt and Peru.

4. That the directors of the Union of Cotton Producers consider the proposal of the ejido group for a study of the manner in which cotton might be sold by a semigovernmental institution which would purchase this commodity from the producer and sell it abroad directly, 3/ endeavoring to open new markets, particularly in the Far East, and observing in all sales the universal standards for cotton.

Exports during August-July 1951-52 totaled 972,000 bales, of which 778,000 were reported as exports to the United States, mostly for transshipment. Mexican export figures for 1952-53 are available for August and September only, but transshipments during August-February (according to records of the U.S. Department of Commerce) amounted to 599,000 bales plus about 25,000 bales shipped to Canada by railroad.

Other subjects discussed at the meeting included: (1) the need for lowering present high costs of production; (2) methods of preventing illegal trade in unginned cotton; (3) rural electrification; (4) increased agricultural credits; (5) improvement of fuel supplies; (6) unjustified taxes levied by the state governments; (7) the improvement of agricultural techniques; and (8) the development of agricultural production.

INDONESIA'S COPRA EXPORTS THE SMALLEST SINCE 1947

Indonesia's copra exports during May dropped sharply to only 5,761 long tons, the lowest monthly level since November 1947. This tonnage was only one-third the volume exported in April and one-fifth the quantity exported in May 1952. Total shipments during January-May 1953 amounted to 74,589 tons against 151,806 tons in the comparable period of 1952. The breakdown of the May 1953 copra exports, by country of destination is as follows: the Netherlands--1,335 tons; Sweden--3,147; and Japan--1,279 tons.

Copra Foundation purchases during May amounted to 48,324 tons of which 42,813 tons originated in East Indonesia and 5,511 tons in West Borneo. The buying price in East Indonesia and West Borneo decreased by 10 rupiahs as of June 1 to 155 rupiahs per 100 kilograms, including packing. This price is guaranteed until the end of June.

3/ Between 75 and 80 percent of Mexico's cotton exports are bought each year by United States exporters and transshipped through United States ports to foreign destinations.

MEXICO TO
IMPORT TALLOW

The American Embassy, Mexico City, has been informed by the Director General of Commerce of the Ministry of Economy that permits will be granted during the next few weeks for importing 5,500 short tons of tallow into Mexico. The permits will be granted exclusively to soap manufacturers. It is expected that this quantity, added to the domestic production, will be sufficient to meet the requirements of the soap industry for the next 2 or 3 months. At the end of this period, the supply situation will again be considered by the authorities of the Ministry of Economy concerned with this matter and a decision will be made as to whether further imports of tallow are needed.

C O R R E C T I O N

In the article entitled, "NORWAY'S MARINE OIL OUTPUT TO DECLINE IN 1953" published in Foreign Crops and Markets of May 25, 1953, at the end it was stated: "According to a trade source the prewar trade in soybeans with Manchuria was resumed recently. Around 2,750 tons are to be delivered in late July. Recent receipts of Manchurian soybeans were reported at over 27,000 tons."

The sentence beginning "Recent receipts" should have read:

"The same source disclosed that Denmark has recently received over 27,000 tons from Manchuria at comparable prices."